

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	16 SEPTEMBER 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	SHEPHERDS LANE - PETITION FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - UPDATE REPORT		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Sub-Committee on the review of the petition received from residents of Caversham Heights requesting that the Council investigates and resolves traffic safety issues in Shepherds Lane.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That Shepherds Lane continues to be monitored as part of the Council's ongoing road safety strategy and the Vehicle Activated Signs be used when possible as part of the annual sign rotation schedule.
- 2.3 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of traffic management, traffic calming measures and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

#### 4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition containing 57 signatures was received from some residents of Caversham Heights, requesting that the Council investigates and resolves traffic speeding issues in Shepherds Lane. The petition was reported to Traffic Management Sub-Committee in March 2015 for further investigation.

*The petition reads - "Petition for a long awaited road calming measures for Shepherds Lane, Caversham Heights. For a long time residents have been aware of the hazardous and speeding traffic along Shepherds Lane which is causing great concern for the welfare for both the residents and animals. We, the undersigned, are signing this petition in order for the Council to effect changes and to prevent any further danger".*

- 4.2 Shepherds Lane is a standard width two way road that is subject to a 30mph speed limit with street lighting. The road provides a link between Upper Woodcote Road and Kidmore Road.
- 4.3 In response to this petition a speed survey was undertaken on Shepherds Lane. The speed survey took place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015.
- 4.4 The mean speed is recorded as 28.4 mph with the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed as 33.8 mph. The mean speed is the speed at which most drivers are travelling and is used by local authorities for speed limit setting. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is the speed which 85% of the vehicles are not exceeding and is used by the police for enforcement purposes based on the highest speeds recorded. The results of the survey demonstrate that the mean and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds are typical for the nature of this road.
- 4.6 The duty of the highway authority is to ensure that the highway is as safe as reasonably practicable. This is achieved by using accident data supplied by the police where the Council can identify a pattern of those locations that have the worst record. The accidents statistics have been checked for Shepherds Lane and no injury accidents have been recorded within its entire length during the latest 3 year period.
- 4.7 Many requests are received for measures to address specific issues such as speeding vehicles and traffic calming. Unfortunately there are insufficient funds to deal with every such request and therefore priority is given to those sites with an existing history of injury accidents where there is a causation factor that is treatable.

- 4.8 The vast majority of drivers do drive responsibly, but sadly there will always be a small minority of drivers who will not drive at an acceptable speed, whatever measures are placed on the road to encourage them to do so. It may be the case that speed enforcement is the only option, however, the focus is on casualty reduction and prolonged enforcement is targeted at those roads that already demonstrate a poor safety record.
- 4.9 Speeding within residential streets has been shown to be one of the greatest concerns for those that live there. Since the introduction of community initiatives both by the Police, Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) and the Council (community liaison officers) concerns of vehicle speed and/or the perception of speeding is one of the most requested areas for action. Speeding is only enforceable by the Police although the Council is responsible for the highway and the implementation of traffic management initiatives. With increasing concern of speeding being expressed by residents the Council has developed a speed awareness strategy. The Council has a list of locations where concern of vehicle speed has already been raised throughout the Borough and Shepherds Lane will be added to this list.
- 4.10 The speed awareness campaign is designed to provide the Council with a factual view of vehicle speeds within those areas of concern. The deployment of vehicle activated signs will enforce the message that a speed limit exists and encourage drivers to comply with that limit. Where there are higher speeds recorded, the speed awareness campaign will use the data collected to determine and justify other possibilities, for example enforcement and/or changes in traffic management.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

- 6.1 The lead petitioner will be informed of the findings of the Sub-Committee.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The Council will carry out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise prior to submitting the update report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

## 9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising from this report.

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Petition report - TM Sub March 2015